

**Minutes of the Meeting of Amicus Goodmans Fields Branch held on
25th April, 2006, Conference Room 2, A/2 Core**

The start of the meeting was delayed until 12:45 due to the unfortunate double booking of the conference room. The Secretary apologised to Mika for this.

Matters Arising

- (a) Pay 2006. Following the extended consultative ballot, the NCC had agreed to accept the Bank's offer following a disappointing return.
- (b) Newsletter. The Chair was pleased to say that the latest edition was now out and that he had copies for distribution. It was the first in a new, glossy, two colour format and looked a distinctly more professional production than former editions.
- (c) Website. Updating had still to be completed. The Webmaster, Chair and Secretary would meet shortly to see what could be done to improve the situation and speed up response to update requests.

Guest Speaker – Mika Paluello (Platform)

The remainder of the meeting was given over to Mika.

Mika started by giving some background concerning Platform, an umbrella organization working in the arts but also monitoring the activities of large international corporations, particularly the oil giants and their impact on the countries in which they operate, both their local populations and the environment. Platform's website was currently undergoing major reconstruction but its web address was available to those who would like to have it. When reconstructed the site would give a better picture of what Platform is and how it operates. His speciality was research into the activities of the large oil companies who were under increasing pressure to find and exploit new sources of oil.

These companies need very large packages to finance exploration and the building of an increasing number of major pipelines and other infrastructure. Royal Bank of Scotland, along with other major British banks, is involved in this finance. Mika gave details of some of the major projects Royal Bank had or is currently involved in and then went on to look at what was actually happening on the ground. This included the extension of pipelines by many hundreds of miles to avoid running through a particular country, destabilisation of certain areas and damage to the environment.

RBS, amongst a growing number of companies, now publishes an 'environmental audit' to show what it is doing to become 'greener' and makes some play of this. However, though it has a significant part in financing the activities of a number of oil companies, it takes no account of this in the audit and the less than environmentally friendly activities it is helping facilitate. Those who are concerned about some of the activities of international oil companies do not, by and large, express these to anyone other than the companies themselves, do not consider that anyone else but the companies themselves have any responsibility for their activities.

In discussion, Mika said that individuals who were shareholders in the bank might use their position to write to the Board in respect of any concerns or questions they had regarding the Bank's activities.

It was suggested that the NCC might be approached to see if it would like to have Mika as a guest speaker and decide if there were any items out of what he had to say that might be taken up with the Bank. **(AH)**.

It was also suggested that Branch might help Mika get a wider audience in London Region and see if other branches might build links with Platform. The Secretary undertook to do this. **(BM)**

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 25th May, 12:30 – 13:30. Guest – Sue Lawrence, Organiser, London Region.

Meeting closed at 13:30.

_____ Chair

_____ Date